

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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67

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CPR-01

NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

AID-05 L-02 H-02 /050 W

----- 016888

O 070215Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 195

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MASS, PINT, PINS, MOPS, CB, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT FORD FROM GKR ACTING PRESIDENT
SAUKHAM KHOY

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED FROM ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY
THE FOLLOWING HAND-WRITTEN LETTER ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT FORD
WHICH HE ASKS ME TO TRANSMIT BY THE MOST RAPID MEANS POSSIBLE.
THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT IS IN ENGLISH. THE LETTER WILL BE
POUCHED TO EA/LC FOR DELIVERY TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

2. BEGIN TEXT. PHNOM PENH, 6 APRIL 1975

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

AS THE AMERICAN CONGRESS RECONVENES TO RECONSIDER YOUR
URGENT REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE KHMER
REPUBLIC, I APPEAL TO YOU TO CONVEY TO THE AMERICAN LEGISLATORS
OUR PLEA NOT TO DENY THESE VITAL RESOURCES TO US, IF A NON-
MILITARY SOLUTION IS TO EMERGE FROM THIS TRAGIC 5 YEAR OLD
CONFLICT.

AS ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC, I WILL
BEND ALL MY ENERGY TO CORRECT SOME OF OUR FAILINGS WHICH
MAY HAVE HAMPERED OUR EFFORTS IN THE PAST. THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC WILL ALSO LEAVE NO
STONE UNTURNED IN THE SEARCH FOR AN EARLY POLITICAL
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SOLUTION TO THE TRAGEDY OF MY COUNTRY. IN THIS SEARCH, IT

IS NOT A MATTER OF PERSONALITIES, BECAUSE ALL OF US HERE
BELIEVE THAT THE WELFARE OF OUR COMPATRIOTS IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN THE FATE OF ANY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP OF PEOPLE.

TO FIND A PEACEFUL END TO THE CONFLICT WE NEED
TIME. I DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH TIME, BUT WE ALL FULLY
REALIZE THAT THE AGONY OF THE KHMER PEOPLE CANNOT AND
MUST NOT GO ON MUCH LONGER. HOWEVER, FOR THE IMMEDIATE
FUTURE, WE NEED THE RICE TO FEED THE HUNGRY AND THE
AMMUNITION AND WEAPONS TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST THOSE
WHO WANT TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL BY FORCE OF ARMS. A
DENIAL BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OF THE MEANS FOR US TO
CARRY ON WILL LEAVE US NO ALTERNATIVE BUT INEVITABLY
ABANDONING OUR SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION WHICH WILL GIVE OUR
CITIZENS SOME FREEDOM OF CHOICE AS TO THEIR FUTURE.

FOR THE NUMBER OF YEARS NOW THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE
HAVE PLACED THEIR TRUST IN AMERICA. I CANNOT BELIEVE
THAT THIS CONFIDENCE WAS MISPLACED AND THAT SUDDENLY
AMERICA WILL DENY US THE MEANS WHICH MIGHT GIVE US A
CHANCE TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO OUR CONFLICT.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE EXPRESSION
OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION . (SIGNED) SAUKHAM KHOY.
END TEXT.
DEAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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